

Appendix B
Overview: Issues, Current Policy, Recommendations and Rationale for
Proposed High School Graduation Requirements
and
Proposal to Adopt a Goal for Competency in a World Language

PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS				
Issue	Current Policy	KDE Recommendation	Rationale	KBE Decision
IMPLEMENTATION When should the proposed minimum high school graduation requirements become effective?	Not applicable	In October, KDE recommended that the new requirements take effect for the graduating class of 2012 (entering 7 th grade in 2006)	<p>Allows time for schools to plan for course offerings and teaching capacity.</p> <p>Provides sufficient time for students to prepare for new requirements.</p>	
MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENTS What mathematics should be required?	Required Credits: ✓ Algebra I ✓ Geometry ✓ A math elective	<p>The Department's October recommendation for minimum high school graduation requirements in mathematics has not changed. The Department is introducing a recommendation for a limited opt out provision that will allow substitution of Algebra II under limited circumstances and with certain provisions.</p> <p>Required Credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or substitute ✓ Mathematics every year <p>Pre-algebra may be counted as an elective only</p>	<p>Why Algebra II?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A high school graduate needs a minimum of Algebra II content to meet the expectations of postsecondary work and learning and to be competitive in postsecondary learning and work. ✓ Based on their own research, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Business Forum and the Prichard Committee on Academic Excellence Task Force on High Achieving High Schools have recommended inclusion of Algebra II as a requirement for all students. ✓ Higher levels of mathematics prepare students to think conceptually and systemically, which is an important skill for the majority of careers and disciplines. 	

Appendix B
Overview: Issues, Current Policy, Recommendations and Rationale for
Proposed High School Graduation Requirements
and
Proposal to Adopt a Goal for Competency in a World Language

PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS				
Issue	Current Policy	KDE Recommendation	Rationale	KBE Decision
			<p>Three credits over four years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provides flexibility to balance the needs of diverse students, those who are ready to graduate early and those who need more time. ✓ Reduces a significant risk factor (failure in math at the 9th grade) for later dropouts. Those 9th graders who are not ready for Algebra I will be allowed time to prepare and to succeed. ✓ Ensures access to higher levels of learning for students who complete the required credits before the senior year. 	

Appendix B
Overview: Issues, Current Policy, Recommendations and Rationale for
Proposed High School Graduation Requirements
and
Proposal to Adopt a Goal for Competency in a World Language

PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS				
Issue	Current Policy	KDE Recommendation	Rationale	KBE Decision
			<p>Why math every year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engaging in mathematics every year reduces the risk that a student will be placed in remediation or be unable to pass an employability test. 	
Should students be able to opt out of Algebra II?	Not applicable	<p>A student should be allowed to opt out of Algebra II and substitute another mathematics experience if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The student has had adequate opportunity to learn (including diagnostic assessment, individualized instruction and appropriate 	There are a limited number of students who will not be successful in Algebra II but who will still need continuous, rigorous learning in mathematics.	

Appendix B
Overview: Issues, Current Policy, Recommendations and Rationale for
Proposed High School Graduation Requirements
and
Proposal to Adopt a Goal for Competency in a World Language

PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS				
Issue	Current Policy	KDE Recommendation	Rationale	KBE Decision
		<p>interventions) and has not been successful.</p> <p>✓ The recommendation to substitute another course for Algebra II in the student's IGP is supported by the student, school and parent and the substitution is of quality.</p> <p>✓ The student and the parent are fully advised of the implications of the decision.</p>		
<p>ENGLISH/ LANGUAGE ARTS</p> <p>Should the minimum requirements for English/ Language Arts include specific courses?</p>	<p>Required Credits:</p> <p>✓ English I, II, III and IV taken in sequence</p>	<p>The Department's October recommendation for minimum high school graduation requirements in English / Language Arts is being changed to require the specific courses of English I, II, III and IV. However, a required sequence for this course content is not recommended.</p>	<p>To ensure that students are engaging in the requisite content, sample course descriptions are necessary and will be produced in conjunction with the revised <i>Program of Studies</i>.</p>	

Appendix B
Overview: Issues, Current Policy, Recommendations and Rationale for
Proposed High School Graduation Requirements
and
Proposal to Adopt a Goal for Competency in a World Language

PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS				
Issue	Current Policy	KDE Recommendation	Rationale	KBE Decision
SOCIAL STUDIES Should the minimum high school graduation requirements include a specific course for U.S. History?	Required Credits: Three credits to incorporate U. S. History, Economics, Government, World Geography and World Civilization.	The Department’s October recommendation for minimum high school graduation requirements in social studies referred to “historical perspective.” Language has been added to clarify that the content of U.S. History continues to be an important component of social studies.	The <i>Program of Studies</i> includes content strands that address U. S. History and U. S. History is assessed on CATS. Local districts have the ability to require a specific course as part of local graduation requirements.	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH Should the KBE increase the amount of physical education and health required during high school?	Required Credits: ✓ .5 credits in Physical Education ✓ .5 credits in Health	The Department’s October commendation for minimum high school graduation requirements in physical education/ health has not changed.	Problems with obesity begin and are best addressed before high school and high schools are not equipped to offer diverse physical education experiences. Therefore, an increase in the minimum time required in the high school graduation requirements would not have significant impact. This is a serious issue, but would better be dealt with as part of the coordinated school health plan and the student’s Individual Graduation Plan.	

Appendix B
Overview: Issues, Current Policy, Recommendations and Rationale for
Proposed High School Graduation Requirements
and
Proposal to Adopt a Goal for Competency in a World Language

PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A GOAL FOR COMPETENCY IN A WORLD LANGUAGE BY 2016				
Issue	Current Policy	KDE Recommendation	Rationale	KBE Decision
Should Kentucky students be expected to demonstrate competency in a world language?	<p>No world language credits are required for high school graduation.</p> <p>Two years of a world language are specified in the Pre College Curriculum adopted by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.</p>	<p>In October, the Department withdrew the recommendation that basic competency in a world language be required as a condition of high school graduation.</p> <p>As an alternative, the Department recommended that the Board adopt the goal that all students be able to demonstrate competency in a world language at the basic user level by 2016 and that is still the recommendation.</p> <p>However, based on further consideration and input from the Board, the Department recommends that the world language goal be broadened to encompass increased emphasis on international studies, cultural competencies, and world citizenship.</p> <p>Additionally, staff requests that the Board charge the Department to work with education partners to assure opportunities to learn are in place by 2012.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Based on their own research, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Business Forum and the Prichard Committee on Academic Excellence Task Force on High Achieving High Schools have recommended inclusion of competency in a world language as a requirement for all students. ✓ Research indicates a positive correlation between the study of world language and early brain development as well as student performance in English and mathematics, test scores and achievement in college. ✓ To be competitive with students from other countries for placement and advancement in postsecondary education and work, students need to attain basic competency in a world language and in the understanding of the global economy and world cultures. 	